

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OWEN HOLMES ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Owen Holmes on the eve of his retirement from California State University, Fullerton.

Dedicating his life to education, Owen has received the Robert and Louise Lee Collaborative Teaching Award, served as an education policy fellow at the Institute for Educational Leadership, and Owen was the inaugural awardee of the Edwin Crawford Award for Innovation.

I have had the pleasure of working with Owen on many issues for CSUF over the years—gerontology, childhood obesity, the Strategic Language Initiative, water hazard mitigation, the advancement of teaching and learning in mathematics and science—all to help enhance the university's education experience, and on the Cal State DC Scholars program and bringing students from the university here to our Nation's Capital, where he orchestrated that effort.

Throughout his over 30 years of service, he has touched the lives of thousands of students and improved government relations and advocacy at Cal State Fullerton. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with Owen over the years to help make CSUF one of the Nation's largest and most inclusive institutions of higher education.

Thank you, Owen, for dedicating your life to improving education. We wish you a happy retirement.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF GENERAL MILLS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of General Mills, an iconic Minnesota company. In 1866, on the banks of the Mississippi River, a bold and ambitious flour mill was founded, immediately becoming one of the largest in the country. Then in the 1920s, the company recognized that the milling industry needed to adapt, and so it expanded its scope and its vision and was renamed General Mills, turning its attention to food and consumer products, and brands such as Cheerios and Betty Crocker were born, becoming staples in homes across the United States and the world.

For 150 years, General Mills has made wonderful contributions to our great State. General Mills embodies the Minnesota spirit of hard work, innovation, perseverance, and generosity. They are

an outstanding corporate citizen, representing the best of Minnesota and having an impact around the world.

Mr. Speaker, as Minnesotans, we take great pride in General Mills' success over the past 150 years, and we wish them continued success in the future with their leadership.

RECOGNIZING FILIPINO WORLD WAR II HEROES

(Mrs. RADEWAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this minute to applaud the passage, by unanimous consent, of the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act, which I was proud to cosponsor.

I want to thank both Senator HIRONO and Representative GABBARD for their efforts in seeing this measure get sent to the President's desk. They did a fantastic job, and I could not be more proud to work alongside other women in Congress who work so hard for those they serve.

This has been a long time coming, and I am happy to see that we are finally recognizing these heroes who helped the United States win the war in the Pacific. The countless sacrifices and efforts by those men and women of the Philippines who answered the call to arms in defense of the ideals and values we hold so dear can never be forgotten. With the passage of this important legislation, the people of the United States can finally say thank you to those brave men and women.

I look forward to seeing the President sign this legislation into law and want to once again thank the men and women of the Philippines who fought alongside the United States in defense of freedom.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NDAA

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we are all very pleased to see the passage of the Defense Authorization Act today. This is how the process actually is supposed to work. The House and the Senate came together in conference to have a document that we can send to the White House. We urge the President, after previous veto threats, to pass this measure, to sign this measure so we can put these important priorities in place, such as stopping the decrease of our American troop levels—this has funding to do that; very importantly, finally, a 2.1 percent pay raise for our troops, largest in several years.

Other good highlights of this include the stoppage of any funding to close down Guantanamo Bay, which helps keep us safe on American soil. We are not going to do anything to reduce the

housing allowance. Instead, we will keep that in place for our soldiers and their families on base.

There is much to be happy about with this. One of the things I am most happy about as a Californian is Cal Guard, the National Guard, will not be seeking to take back the bonuses. This has strong measures in it. My colleague, Representative DENHAM, and I sponsored a bill to do this. This has a lot of those pieces in that, in Mr. DENHAM's bill, to stop the required repayment of bonuses that were taken in good faith by our Guard members who served. A lot of good things about this. I urge the President to sign this.

WEEK IN REVIEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here, and, even after the voters have spoken, it is an honor to find when you and your positions actually don't make you special, they just make you completely in accord with over 70 percent of your constituents, not including newspapers.

The people have spoken, and, as President Obama referenced a number of times, elections do have consequences. What he failed to remember was, yes, but we had elections to Congress that also should have consequences. When we are accountable every 2 years, the President is only accountable every 4 years.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), my friend.

LOUISIANA'S TRAGIC FLOODS

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to come on the House floor a number of times and give an update to this body about the profound impacts of the flood we had in August of this year in south Louisiana. Just to remind you of a few statistics, this was believed to be a 1,000-year storm. There were trillions of gallons of water that fell in Louisiana. It was estimated to be about 31 inches of rain in about 36 hours in some areas of south Louisiana. That is more rain in 36 hours than the average American gets in a year's time. If that were a snowstorm, Mr. Speaker, that would have been 25 feet of snow.

We have been working now for months, working to try and make sure that we have an efficient recovery, make sure that these people can get back on their own two feet, that they can recover from this absolute tragedy that happened in south Louisiana, this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Starting out, Mr. Speaker, we saw unbelievable recovery, response, rescue